

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, April 17. 1712.

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NOTHING is in our Mouths now, but a Peace, a Peace made, a Peace sign'd; and her Majesty is already brought to the House, by our forward Gentlemen, to give them an Account that She has Concluded a Peace.

And what now Gentlemen? Can you imagin from this, (supposing you to be in your Seats) can you think that her Majesty will say to the House, supposing it were to be as you Report, as above; D'you really believe her Majesty will say, *My Lords and Gentlemen, I am come to tell you, that my Allies and Confederates having long struggled against, and withstood it, and gone about to*

*break off the Hopes of a Peace; I have, in spite of them, made a Separate Peace with France; that I have made, carried on all along a Clandestine Treaty, and now I have ended the War, made a French Peace, and without any regard to the Satisfaction of my Allies, I have Conferred to have no more Fighting; I have let Spain and the Indies remain to the House of Bourbon, and as to France and Spain becoming one Kingdom, I have left it to Fate; but I have given Peace to my own Subjects, let the rest of the Alliance go to the . . . .*

WHI

Will any Man suggest, that this, or something like this, shall be the Substance of her Majesty's Speech? If they do, let such like Mad-Men talk to themselves, I have nothing to do with them.

Wise-Men always think before they speak, and Fools just the contrary; have we not the Queen's Word given to this House, that all the Steps taken towards a Peace, shall be laid before the House of Commons before it is Concluded? And has her Majesty acquainted them with one Step of it yet? There's one full Stop to the Notion aforesaid— For my part, I am never for believing a Report against my Reason, nor am I one of those, who believe the first Rumour of any Thing; those that are forwardest to believe Rumours, are generally the first that are ashamed of it.

I have heard a great deal of Whispering about Signing a Treaty of Commerce with France, and the last hint I saw of it in Publick, the Foolish-Author thinking to atone for suggesting before, that it was actually Sign'd, palliates it with saying, it is Sign'd without express Proviso. That it, shall be void if the General Peace is not Concluded, this shews the exceeding Flux of Ignorance in our News-Paper Politicians; the Thing they think to cover it with, being the only Thing to render it Ridiculous.

Why should a Treaty of Trade with France be Sign'd with that Condition?— Can any Man assign one good Reason, why we have not Traded with France all this War? Why we had not made a Treaty of Commerce with them at first? — I never yet saw one Word offer'd to the contrary, more than this, that so the Parliament had order'd it.

I know the Danger of giving my Opinion in this Case, and if I did not despise the Censurers of this Day, with a Contempt I cannot express, I should forbear; I know it is to no purpose to say to you, that I have, in the Course of this Paper, Printed it ten times over at least, that if we had been in our Trading Wits, we had open'd our Trade with France from the beginning—But then I should reprint all the Arguments I

used then, and prove they were Printed so long ago, I shall expect to hear this Paper Reproach'd with Writing for the French Interest: But I am the same still, and ever shall be; Fight with France as long as you will, but Trade with France all the while; — You'll Fight then the better, while you gain by the Trade.

I shall, however, repeat something of what I have Printed already, for the Reasons are the same now as they were then.

1. We ought to Trade with every Nation we can get Money by.
2. Whereas our Trade with France before the Revolution, was carried on 800000*l.* per Ann. to our Loss, in the Ballance; yet after the first War, during the Interval of the Peace of Ryswick, it was apparent from just Calculations, that we Traded to France 90000*l.* per Month to our Gain, in Ballance, as above.
3. By Trading with them, while we gain, we enable ourselves the better to fight them.
5. By prohibiting our Trade with them, we prevented not their obtaining our Lead, or Corn, or Manufactures, whereby they might have been weaken'd, only sending those Goods to Neutral Nations, who sent them at Second Hand to France, we Cheated ourselves of the Advanc'd Profit, and the Supply to our Enemies was the same.

The Dutch, who we never counted Fools in Matters of Trade, knew all this very well, and therefore they maintain'd an open Trade with France to the last, and would have done it to this Hour, if France itself, seeing the Gain they made by it, had not prohibited his Trade with them.

Oh, but Correspondence with the Queen's Enemies! shooting them with Bullets to shoot at us! and the like: Why, Gentlemen, if there were none but English Lead in the World, then, during a War, there should have been none Exported at all, and in Time, the Enemy might have been straight-

straightly, but while any other Nation  
has not Lead, and the French have Money,  
Polish Gunpowder, will want Lead to make  
Bullets?

These are the Ways we have hitherto  
Cheated ourselves, and now if a Treaty of  
Commerce is Sign'd, there must be a  
Clause to sweeten it, and excuse the Minis-  
try for doing, what, if it be done, is the  
best and most Valuable Thing they are able  
to do for the Nation; and I think it rather  
wants an Excuse that it has not been done  
all this while: Then we had got some of  
the French Money fairly, and might have  
been the better able to have beaten them  
with it — — — And this had, no Question,  
been the Duty of the English Government,  
even from the beginning of the War.

But then follows the Treaty of Peace,  
which is the main Article; and this is  
Sign'd say they, for Great Britain, Sep-  
timately, from the rest of the Allies: Now  
I wonder they did not say in this Case, as  
in the other, viz. With a Proviso; *To be  
of no Force, unless the General Peace be Con-  
cluded*; this had been a just Defense here  
indeed, but in the other it was Ridicu-  
lous.

I do believe truly, that France will make  
no Difficulty to grant all the Demands of  
Great Britain; they seem so Reasonable,  
that I see no just Ground he can have to re-  
fuse them, besides his other Reasons — — —  
Now tho' I am, I think God, in none of  
the Secrets of this Age — — — If France has  
sent, or shall send Word to the Queen of  
Great Britain, Madam, *I do hereby Agree*  
*to all Your Majesty's Demands* — — — What  
could the Queen Answer less or more than  
this? — *Why then I have no more to say, I*  
*am ready to make a Conciliation, and I de-  
clare myself Satisfy'd, only with this Provi-  
so, That this shall be of no Force, unless the*  
*General Peace be Concluded with all the rest*  
*of the Allies.*

Let us hear what else any one can say, the  
Queen could Reasonably Answer to this;  
and what's all this to the purpose now? — — —  
If we will call this a SEPARATE PEACE,  
Peace without our Allies, then I'll give

you an Example or Precedent for it, which  
none of the Objectors can Answer, and in  
a Person, whose Honesty and Faithfulness  
to the Allies was never doubted, no, not  
by his Enemies; and that was that Son of  
Fame, and Fund of true Glory, King  
William.

At the Treaty of Ryswick, the Plenipo-  
tentaries of all the Powers Concern'd in  
the War, met, to consider of a Peace, just  
as they are now at You-Trick; the Treaty  
hindred not the War; and the King was in  
the Field with the Confederate Army; but  
there being some Secret Negotiation  
necessary, with Respect to the Personal  
Right, and quiet Possession of the King to,  
and in the Crown of England, the Marechal  
de Boufflers and the Earl of Portland be-  
gan a Separate Treaty at the Head of the  
two Armies; they did not so much as Ac-  
quaint or Concern the Plenipo's at the Con-  
gres with the Thing; but a Secret, Pri-  
vate, Separate, Clandestine Treaty, or what  
you please to call it, was carried on, and at  
last Sign'd by the King without them; this  
Treaty related to the King of France's  
Treatment of the King of England, as to  
the Title and Crown of England, and his  
Treatment also of King James, as to Aid-  
ing, Assisting, &c. and other Things.

When this Treaty was Agreed, his Ma-  
jesty sent to the Congres to acquaint the  
Plenipotentiaries, that if the Treaty was  
likely to be Concluded, it shoud receive  
no Obstruction on the Account of the King  
of Great Britain, for that all Things which  
Concern'd his Majesty's Interest and Affairs,  
were Concluded, Settled, and Adjusted, to  
His Majesty's full Satisfaction, between his  
most Christian Majesty and himself; these  
were the very Words.

Now what would we call this at this Time  
of Day? — — — No Man called into question  
the Honour or Justice of his M-  
jesty, in the Case above, neither was there the least  
Room for it; for if the Treaty of Ryswick  
had not been Concluded, all this had stood  
for nothing — — — Apply this Home; I care  
not what Separate Treaty they Agree to or  
Sign, for the particular Concern of the  
Queen

Queen of Great-Britain, and her Interest and People, not doubting it shall be sufficient to our Safety at Home, and Commerce Abroad, provided it be with this Condition, that it shall not take Effect, unless

the General Treaty be Concluded; and therefore they cannot be our Friends who amuse us with these false Alarms, till they go farther into the Particulars.

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